

Delayed railway projects

*18. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of ongoing works and projects of railways in the country which have not been completed on their original scheduled time and have been delayed;
- (b) the reasons therefor in each case;
- (c) the remedial measures taken; and
- (d) by when those works would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a), (b) and (d) Railways have a huge throwforward of ongoing projects, under new lines, gauge conversions, doublings, railway electrifications and metropolitan transport projects, with limited availability of resources, as a result of which the projects take long time in completion. The targets for the projects are generally fixed on yearly basis based on the availability of resources and progress and many of the projects get completed in phases. Some of the projects where targets had been fixed and projects would have completed in full but have been delayed are given in the Annexure alongwith reasons for delay and the revised targets. [See Appendix 215 Annexure No.1. The main reasons for delay have been paucity of funds, delay in land acquisition and forestry clearance, failure of contracts, adverse law and order conditions and other market forces affecting the progress. With the present availability of funds and the large throwforward, it is not possible to fix and maintain many targets.

- (c) Some of the steps taken to expedite implementation of ongoing projects are:-
 - (i) The availability of funds for the projects have increased considerably over the last few years due to provision of funds through internal generation, additional funds for National Projects, participation by State Governments and beneficiaries and implementation of projects by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited through extra budgetary resources.
 - (ii) The contract conditions have been modified to bring in efficiency in contract management.
 - (iii) Empowerment of field units with delegation of powers.
 - (iv) Pursuing the security issues and land acquisition with the State Governments.
 - (v) State Governments have been requested to regularly review the projects and sort out the pending issues.

Price control of drugs

†*19. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that all medicines manufactured from 72 basic medicines prescribed under the Drug Price Control Order, 1995 come under the purview of price control;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.